DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 223 269 JC 820 492

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TITLE Characteristics of Honors Students. Maricopa Community Colleges, Spring 1981-82. Report No. 82-6.
INSTITUTION Maricopa County Community Coll. District, Phoenix, Ariz.
PUB DATE Jun 82
NOTE 12p.
PUB TYPE Reports - Research/Technical (143)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Age; College Freshmen; Females; Full Time Students; *High Achievement; High School Graduates; *Honors Curriculum; Majors (Students); Males; Minority Groups; Part Time Students; *Student Characteristics; *Two Year College Students

ABSTRACT

The Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD) instituted its honors program in spring 1981-82, enrolling a total of 194 students during the first term in honors courses offered at five of the colleges in the district. Almost 65% of the honors students were enrolled full-time, compared to 25% of all of the students in the district. While 54.5% of the students in the MCCCD were women, women represented 65.5% of the students enrolled in the honors courses. In general, the honors students were younger than the district population as a whole; however, a significant number of older students were also attracted to the honors program. Only 12 non-white students participated in the honors courses, although minority groups make up approximately 13.1% of the MCCCD student body and 19% of the population of Maricopa County. Compared to all MCCCD students, there was a greater percentage of honors students in the admission categories of "college transfer," "high school graduate," and "able and ambitious." Most of the honors participants (74.2%) were continuing students, 22.2% were new students, and 3.6% were former MCCCD students. Half of the honors students indicated that they were interested in transfer credit; 28.4% were interested in an occupational program; and 21.6% were interested in a general curriculum. Of the honors students, 55.2% had attended high school in Arizona and another 39.7% had attended high schools in other states. (KL)

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REPORT NO.: 82-6

TITLE: Characteristics of Honors Students

Maricopa Community Colleges

Spring 1981-82

DATE PREPARED: June 1982

PREPARED BY: Mary Day

SOURCES: Honors Students for Spring 1981-82 were selected, and computer report S90028-02 was run for 45th Day. District student data came from the 45th Day Fall 1981-82 S90028-02 computer report.

SUMMARY: This report has two purposes. The first is to provide background information on the characteristics of Honors Students; and the second is to compare Honors Students to all students. Information on the following characteristics is presented:

1. Enrollment
2. Part-time/Full-time Status
3. Sex
4. Age
5. Ethnic Background
6. Admission Status
7. Freshmen-Sophomores
8. Curriculum
9. High School Attended

A brief summary of the major points appears below.

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CHARACTERISTICS OF HONORS STUDENTS

SPRING 1981-82

Summary

1. Enrollment:

Last Spring 194 students were enrolled in Honors courses and these students generated 154.9 FTSE. Five of the colleges - Glendale Community College, Maricopa Technical College, Mesa Community College, Phoenix College, and Scottsdale Community College - offered Honors courses.

2. Part-time/Full-time Status:

About 65% of Honors Students were enrolled full-time compared to 25% for all students; they carried 1 to 25 credit hours during the term; and Honors Students carried heavier credit loads than did students in general.

3. Sex:

Two-thirds of the Honors Students were women, and one-third were men. District-wide 55% are women and 45% are men.

4. Age:

In general, Honors Students were younger than all students, but not by a great deal. Compare 53% of Honors Students to 47% of all students who were 24 and under; and the 47% of Honors Students to 53% of all students who were 25 and older. There were significantly more Honors Students who were 19 and under compared to all students, 33% to 22% respectively. However, 6% of the Honors Students were 50 and older.

5. Ethnic Background:

Last Spring only 12 Honors Students were non-white; 94% of Honors Students were white. There is a greater percentage of minority individuals in both the District and in Maricopa County.

6. Admission Status:

Honors Students were more likely to fall into the following admission categories than all students: College Transfer, High School Graduate, and Able and Ambitious. Since it was the Spring semester, the great majority, or three-fourths, were continuing students. All but four Honors Students were residents of Maricopa County.

Summary - Con't.

7. Freshmen-Sophomores:

Honors Students were more likely to be sophomores than were students in general. Among Honors Students 38% were sophomores compared to 14% of all students who were sophomores.

8. Curriculum:

Honors Students were interested in a wide range of programs and all of these choices are presented in the body of the report. Half of the Honors Students indicated they were interested in transfer credit; almost 30% in an occupational curriculum; and just over 20% in a general curriculum. Honors Students were more transfer oriented than were students in general.

9. High School Attended:

About 55% of the Honors Students attended high schools in Arizona; 40% attended out-of-state high schools; and 5% were not coded for high school attendance.

CHARACTERISTICS OF HONORS STUDENTS

MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

SPRING 1981-82

Enrollment:

The Maricopa Community Colleges instituted its Honors Program in Spring 1981-82. A total of 194 students were enrolled in Honors courses during this period; and Honors Students generated 154.9 FTSE. Five colleges offered Honors courses; the colleges and the number of students enrolled in each program appear below.

College	Number
Glendale Community College	37
Maricopa Technical College	48
Mesa Community College	33
Phoenix College	53
Scottsdale Community College	23
DISTRICT TOTAL	194

Part-time/Full-time Status:

Almost 65% of Honors Students were enrolled full-time compared to 25% for all students in the District. The chart below compares the two groups:

	Honors Students		All Students
	No.	%	%
11 Hours and Under	69	35.6	74.7
12 Hours and Over	125	64.4	25.3
TOTAL	194	100.0	100.0

Individual Honors Students took from 1 to 25 credit hours during the Spring term. Compared to full-time students, Honors Students tended to carry heavier course loads; they were more likely to take 16 to 18 hours compared to 12 to 15 hours for most other full-time students. As additional background information, the chart below contains more detailed information on the number of credit hours taken by Honors Students.

CREDIT HOURS TAKEN BY HONORS STUDENTS

SPRING 1981-82

Credit Hours	Number	%
1 - 3	13	6.7
4 - 6	18	9.3
7 - 9	19	9.8
10 - 11	19	9.8
12 - 14	66	34.0
15 - 18	52	26.8
19 - 25	7	3.6
TOTAL	194	100.0

Sex:

Two-thirds of Honors Students were women and one-third were men. The comparable District figures for all students are: 55% women and 45% men. The table below presents these comparions:

	Honors Students			All Students	
	No.	%	Adj %	%	Adj %
Males	64	33.0	33.5	43.7	45.5
Females	127	65.5	66.5	52.7	54.5
Not Coded	3	1.5	N/A	3.9	N/A
TOTAL	194	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Age:

In general Honors Students were younger than all students. However, the Maricopa Community Colleges attracted significant numbers of older students into the Honors Program and a significantly greater percentage of older students than did the universities. For those 19 and younger: 33% of the Honors Students fell in this group compared to 22% of all students. This was the largest contrast. For the 24 and under group the comparisons were: Honors Students - 53%, all students - 47%; for those 25 and older: Honors Students - 47% and all students - 53%. This difference wasn't as great. In addition, 6% of the Honors Students were 50 and older.

The first table below gives the composite age breakdown and the corresponding District percentages. The second lists all of the age information for Honors Students that was contained in the computer printout.

COMPOSITE AGE

	Honors Students			All Students	
	No.	%		Adj %	
19 and Under	64	33.0	53.1	21.6	47.5
20 -- 24	39	20.1		25.9	
25 and Over	91	46.9		52.5	
TOTAL	194	100.0		100.0	

AGES OF HONORS STUDENTS

Age	Number	%
17	19	9.8
18	19	9.8
19	26	13.4
20	7	3.6
21	10	5.2
22	6	3.1
23	9	4.6
24	7	3.6
25	8	4.1
26-29	10	5.2
30-35	35	18.1
36-39	12	6.2
40-45	8	4.1
46-49	7	3.6
50-55	3	1.5
56-59	2	1.0
60+	6	3.1
TOTAL	194	100.0

Ethnic Background:

Only 12 non-white students participated in the Honors Program this Spring; roughly 94% of the students were white. Both the District and Maricopa County have a greater percentage of minority students and population respectively. During the implementation of the Honors Program discussion and concerns focused on this issue; which indicates a need for additional follow-up. The following chart presents figures on ethnic background for Honors Students, District percentages, and percentages for Maricopa County.

	Honors Students			District	Maricopa County
	No.	%	Adj %	%	%
American Indian	1	0.5	0.5	1.5	1
Oriental	2	1.0	1.1	1.3	Not Given
Black	2	1.0	1.1	3.4	3
Hispanic	7	3.6	3.8	6.9	15
White	173	89.2	93.5	86.9**	81
Other*	9	4.7	N/A	N/A	Very Small
TOTAL	194	100.0	100.0	100.0	100

*For the Maricopa Community Colleges, "other" indicates those students who didn't answer the ethnic background question on the Application for Admission.

**White and other are combined in this figure; 20% of the students didn't answer this question.

Admission Status:

The chart below compares the admission status of Honors Students to all students within the District. Compared to all students, there were a greater percent of Honors Students admitted in the following categories: College Transfer, High School Graduate, and Able and Ambitious. Since slightly under a fourth of the Honors Students were admitted as college transfers, it might be asked: what colleges did they come from? Most of them came from colleges withing the Maricopa District. Only 12 came from other colleges; 3 from other Arizona colleges, and 9 from out-of-state colleges.

	Honors Students		All Students	
	No.	%	No.	%
College Transfer	45	23.2	12,799	21.6
High School Graduate	95	49.0	26,513	44.7
G.E.D.	7	3.6	2,871	4.8
Able and Ambitious	17	8.7	601	1.0
Maturity	6	3.1	2,685	4.5
Not Coded	24	12.4	13,846	23.4
TOTAL	194	100.0	59,315	100.0

The table below presents information on whether the Honors Students were new students, former students, or continuing students. Roughly three-fourths of the Honors Students were continuing, just under a quarter were new students; and the rest were former Maricopa Community College students.

	Number	%
New	43	22.2
Former	7	3.6
Continuing	144	74.2
TOTAL	194	100.0

Additional information related to admissions status is summarized here. Attracting new high school graduates into the system was one of the issues discussed during Honors Program meetings. Roughly 17% of the Honors Students have graduated from high school in the past two years; for 1981 the figure was 23 students, or 11.9% of all Honors Students, for 1980 it was 10 students or 5.2%. As to residency status, all but 4 of the students, or 97.9% were Maricopa County residents. Of the 4 others, 2 were from Alaska, one was from Colorado, and the other was from Indiana. All but one of the students was a U.S. citizen; the one individual was an immigrant.

Freshmen-Sophomores:

Honors Students were more likely to hold sophomore status than were other students. While 38% of the Honors Students were sophomores, only 14% of all students were. The chart below compares the two groups on this characteristic.

	Honors Students		All Students	
	No.	%	No.	%
Freshmen	117	60.3	47,388	79.9
Sophomores	73	37.6	8,152	13.7
Unclassified	4	2.1	3,775	6.4
TOTAL	194	100.0	59,315	100.0

Curriculum:

Half of the Honors Students indicated they were interested in transfer credit, almost 30% were interested in an occupational program; and just over 20% were interested in a general curriculum. As can be seen from the table below, Honors Students were more likely to be transfer oriented, and consequently less likely to have selected either the occupational or general options, than were students in general.

	Honors Students		All Students	
	No.	%	No.	%
Occupational	55	28.4	22,800	38.4
Transfer	97	50.0	17,959	30.3
General	42	21.6	18,556	31.3
TOTAL	194	100.0	59,315	100.0

The table on the following page gives the breakdown of all the academic programs that Honors Students are majoring in. To give a better sense of the types of programs Honors Students are choosing, the following table has been prepared. It breaks the curriculum down into these areas: business, technical areas, and medical fields; transfer-liberal arts, and general curriculum; and other - not coded.

	Number		%	
Business	39		20.1	
Technical Areas	22		11.3	
Medical	13		6.7	
Sub-Total		74		38.1
Transfer-Liberal Arts	62		32.0	
General Curriculum	44		22.7	
Sub-Total		106		54.7
Other-Not Coded	14	14	7.2	7.2
TOTAL		194		100.0

CURRICULUM

Name	Number
Accounting	6
Administration of Justice	3
Advertising Arts	5
Agri-Business	1
Art, General	3
Automotive Technology	1
Biology	2
Business, Administration	11
Business, General	2
Computer Application Programmer	10
Data Processing	3
Drafting	3
Education	2
Education Administrative Assistant	1
Electrical Technology	1
Electronics Engineering	2
Electronics Technology	7
Engineering	8
English	6
Food Service Administration	1
Foreign Languages	2
General Curriculum	44
History	3
Journalism	7
Legal Assistant	2
Liberal Arts	10
Legal Secretary	1
Mass Communications	2
Medical Records Technology	1
Medical Technology	2
Merchandising and Selling Management	1
Motion Picture/Television Production	2
Music	4
Nursing, LPN	2
Nursing, RN	5
Physical Education	1
Pre-Professional	3
Psychology	3
Real Estate	1
Respiratory Therapy	2
Social Work	1
Theatre Arts	2
Unit Clerk	1
Other	12
Not Coded	2
TOTAL	194

High School Attended:

Fifty-five percent of the Honors Students attended high school in Arizona; 40% attended high school in other states; and the other 5% were not coded for this question. To indicate the diversity of geographical areas from which Honors Students were drawn, all the high schools which they attended are listed below.

	Number	%
In-State	107	55.2
Out-of-State	77	39.7
Not Coded	10	5.1
TOTAL	194	100.0

School	Number
Chinle	1
Window Rock	1
Shadow Mountain	3
Globe	1
Corona del Sol	1
Marcos de Niza	3
Thunderbird	1
Agua Fria Union	1
Buckeye Union	1
Chandler	3
Dysart	1
Gilbert	2
Cortez	6
Glendale	1
Moon Valley	3
Sunnyslope	2
Washington	3
Mesa	1
Westwood	3
Paradise Valley	4
Alhambra	6
Camelback	3
Carl Hayden	3
Central	2
East	1

School	Number
Maryvale	6
North	2
Phoenix Union	3
South Mountain	3
West	2
Arcadia	1
Coronado	5
Scottsdale	4
McClintock Union	1
Tempe	1
Tolleson Union	1
Apollo	1
Trevor Brown	2
Greenway	1
Snowflake Union	1
Canyon del Oro	1
Pueblo	1
Mountain View	4
Chaparral	2
Phoenix Christian	4
Thunderbird Academy	1
Xavier	2
People's Christian Academy	1
Out-of-State	77
Not Coded	10
TOTAL	194

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